

THE ORDER OF THINGS
I COR. 11:2-16

Introduction:

- A. Paul pleads for a continuation in his teaching. v2
 - 1. "I praise you for not forgetting me."
 - 2. ordinances = instructions, not the 2 ordinances.

- B. Paul establishes the order of eternal beings. v3
 - 1. Things being in order do not infer either inferiority or superiority.
 - 2. God's order is, God, Christ, Man, and Woman.
 - 3. Jesus, submitted to God, not inferior.

- C. The order that should exist between man and woman is symbolized.
 - 1. This has direct reference to the church of God at Corinth.
 - 2. It has direct truth, explicit truth for us.

- D. Some Bible directives are to be considered in the context of what they teach, not state.
 - 1. I Thess. 5:26 "Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss."
 - 2. I Peter 5:14 "Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity."
 - 3. We have to assume this teaches us to greet one another in a friendly fashion.

I. PRAYING OR PROPHESYING, IN THE CHURCH AT CORINTH.

- A. The man. v4.
 - 1. The man's head is "uncovered" [down over the head], he is in submission to Jesus.
 - a. dishonor = to bring shame.

- B. The woman. v5.
 - 1. The woman is to be covered with a veil.
 - 2. She is in submission to man.

- C. What is praying and prophesying?
 - 1. Praying = public and private prayer.
 - 2. Prophesying = Telling God's will for the congregation
- D. Should we or can we pray and prophesy today?
 - 1. We need to and must pray.
 - 2. The Bible tells us God's will.

I. THE WEARING OF A HEAD COVER. V6,7

- A. The woman should wear a covering.
 - 1. v6, "do not mix your image."
 - 2. Be veiled in church, long hair in public.
- B. The man should not wear a covering.
 - 1. v7, He should not be veiled.
 - 2. Man created first, God's representative.

II. THE ORDER RESTATED. V8-10

- A. The man was created first.
 - 1. v6-8, The order of creation.
- B. The man was not created for woman.
 - 1. v9, The man was first, the woman second.
- C. The woman should acknowledge her submission.
 - 1. v10, have power = show submission to authority.
 - 2. Men and angels or messengers of God present.

III. THEIR MUTUAL NEED, AND DEPENDENCE. V11,12

- A. They, man and woman, need one another. v11.
 - 1. "In the Lord," Lord Jesus.
 - 2. "there is neither male nor female."
- B. Woman came from man and man from woman. v12.

1. God created the man first, then woman from man.
2. Since then every man has been born of a woman.

C. "but all things are of God."

1. No one can be, without God, man or woman.

IV. THE TRUTH NATURE WOULD TEACH US? v13-15

A. Paul challenges them to thought.

1. v13, comely = does it seem to fit?
2. A challenge to their training.
3. Long hair was a natural veil.

B. They were people of Eastern culture.

1. Women in prayer always veiled their heads.
2. They do in India at this time.

C. We have no such custom.

1. What would your conscience say?

D. The man and long hair. v14.

1. nature = phusis - the instinctive laws or the laws of natural constitution.
2. The way things are.
3. long hair = komao - to let the hair grow long, to wear long hair.
4. shame = aischros = deformed, ugly, whether of mind or body; what is offensive to modesty or purity, indecent or shameful.
5. The man is not in need of a veil.

E. The woman and long hair. v15

1. It is her natural veil.
2. Long hair was a symbol of submission outside of the church, her veil was a symbol on the inside of the church.

VI. THE BINDING POWER OF THE PRACTICE. V16

- A. contentious = philoneikos - loving a quarrel, fond of strife.
 - 1. If some one wants to raise a fuss."

- B. custom = sunetheia = a usage, a custom.
 - 1. This is the custom we see in all churches.

- C. Amplified = "Now if anyone is disposed to be argumentative and contentious about this, we hold to and recognize no other custom in worship than this, nor do the churches of God generally."

VII. WHAT DOES THIS TEACH ME?

- A. The wearing of veils was an Eastern cultural habit, like men kissing men.
 - 1. This we can make substitutes.

- B. The sexes, men and women, should wear hair appropriate to their sex.